

ABSTRACT

An apparatus for heat-treating products, has a retort into which the products to be treated are receivable a heating unit for heating the retort; coolant spray for spraying a liquid coolant onto products received in the retort; and a shield to substantially prevent coolant sprayed from the coolant spray from impinging on the interior of the retort. A method of protecting a retort has a retort wall defining a volume into which products to be treated are receivable, a heating unit for heating the retort, and coolant spray for spraying a liquid coolant onto products received in the retort against thermal shock, the method including a mounting shielding apparatus within the retort to substantially prevent liquid coolant sprayed from the coolant spray within the retort from impinging on the interior of the retort wall.